

SECRET

24 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with King Zog, 30 August 1951.

1. I called on King Zog at the Hotel Delmonico at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 30 August 1951, and told him that we had given serious thought to our past discussions on the subject of Albanian operations. If he considered it a useful thing to do, we would provide all possible material assistance in infiltrating a small party of high-grade agents to be furnished by him for the purpose of effecting a reconnaissance in Albania and establishing contact with people who are friendly to him in the existing armed forces and governmental agencies, and with any resistance groups which his men could reach. I added that we would select a good W/T operator to go in with his team. The King said that he would willingly place his men at our disposal, and that he would suggest a party of two former officers who are now living in Egypt, together with two guides who would assist these officers in moving through critical areas. The W/T man to be furnished by us would represent a fifth member of the party. The King went on to say that the whole operation should be handled most discreetly and that his men should be brought into Greece secretly. He suggested that they could be moved to some European country where we could pick them up and arrange for their clandestine transfer to Greece. He also added that he would instruct his aide, Col. Selmani, to assist us in briefing the men in Greece.

2. I then asked the King to let us know the names of the agents selected by him and he replied that it would take him a little while to pick specific individuals, but that as soon as he knows the names himself, he will pass them on. He then warned me that he would probably have no information about the W/T operator selected by us and that consequently we would have to feel responsible for the man's trustworthiness and reliability. He also expressed the hope that we would use cryptographic material which could not be read by the Russians who, he added, are very good at breaking codes and ciphers.

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3. Then followed

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3. Then followed a general discussion which lasted about an hour and dealt with topics he mentioned in the past, including the importance of securing a prompt solution of the Jewish-Arab problem in the middle east, the necessity for vigorous action against the Communists in China, etc. He also brought up the fact that he had talked with both Generals MacArthur and Clay, and that he was impressed by their understanding of the matters which he brought up with them.

[Chief, EE-1]

EE-1/GMY/cls

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